THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • MAY 23, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 40 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

FAMILIAL BONDING AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi (second from left) and Navy Chief Adm Dinesh K Tripathi with their spouses during the Defence Investiture Ceremony, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. At the ceremony, President Droupadi Murmu conferred six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumously, to personnel of the Army and J&K Police | PTI

Pakistan will pay a big price for any terror attack: PM

Says no scope for bilateral talks, adds no water for the neighbour from Indian rivers

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN his first public meeting in Rajasthan after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday castigated Pakistan for using terrorism as a weapon against India and asserted that the hostile neighbour and its economy will pay a heavy price for every terrorist attack in future.

Addressing a large gathering in Bikaner, Modi said Pakistan will not get a drop of water from rivers over which India has rights and claimed there was no scope for further talks.

Modi arrived at the Nal Airbase in Bikaner and proceeded to the Karni Mata temple to offer prayers. From there, he reached Palana in Bikaner district to address the public gathering. At the meeting in Palana, about 20 km from Bikaner on the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan, Modi said: "Pakistan will from now onwards pay a heavy price for every terrorist attack... Pakistan's army will pay it, Pakistan's economy will pay it."

PM Modi vowed a firm response to any hostile action from across the border. "Every drop of Indian blood will be avenged... Those who play with the lives of Indians will not be spared, India is no longer afraid of nuclear threats. Those who shed Indian blood will pay dearly for every drop," he said.

Referring to the recent Pahalgam attack, Modi said, "On May 7, India eliminated nine major terrorist hideouts within 22 minutes. The world has now seen what happens when sindoor (vermilion) turns into gunpowder."

India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Following that, Pakistan tried, unsuccessfully, to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. India launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation.

"Pakistan can never win a direct fight against India. Whenever there is a direct fight, Pakistan has to face defeat again and again. That is why Pakistan has made terrorism a weapon to fight against India," PM Modi said.

We won't differentiate between terrorist organisations and govt that supports them — they'll be treated as one

UAE, Japan express solidarity

The UAE and Japan have expressed solidarity with India as multi-party delegations started reaching out to world capitals to sensitise global leadership about terror from Pakistan

3-fold formula key for ties with China

India on Thursday reminded China that mutual trust, respect and sensitivity are the basis of its bilateral ties, after it became clear that Pakistan used Chinese weapons in the recent clash

India to Turkiye: Show sensitivity

India on Thursday called on Turkiye to understand that bilateral ties must be built on mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's core concerns | P9

SC STAYS PROBE AGAINST TASMAC

'ED crossing all limits, violating federal structure'

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

IN a relief to the Tamil Nadu government, the Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Enforcement Directorate's probe and proceedings against the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) over an alleged ₹1,000-crore scam. The two-judge bench hearing Tamil Nadu's petition orally criticised the probe agency.

"Enforcement Directorate is crossing all limits. How can your office raid a corporation (Tasmac)? You are totally violating the federal structure of the country," Chief Justice of India Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, who led the bench, said.

The bench also comprised Justice Augustine George Masih.

The petition filed by the DMK-run state government and Tasmac challenged the April 23 order of the Madras High Court that upheld the ED's actions, alleging grave violations of constitutional rights and the federal structure.

"The present petition raises questions of law having wide ramifications including the issue of federalism laid bare by the respondent 1 (ED) exceeding its remit and attempting to usurp the state's right to investigate offences occurring therein," the state government contended.

The ED, however, claimed that there is a ₹1,000-crore liquor scam in Tamil Nadu.

The central probe agency had conducted various raids in March, during which allegations had surfaced that distillery companies had given unaccounted cash to secure liquor supply orders from Tasmac.

₹1K-CR LIQUOR SCAM: ED

TN GOVT HAD MOVED THE TOP COURT ON MAY 20 CHALLENGING THE RAIDS CONDUCTED BY ED ON TASMAC PREMISES

1. The apex court asked, "How can you raid the state-run Tasmac?"
2. Advocate Kapil Sibal said TN has filed 41 FIRs against Tasmac staff
3. ED said TN distilleries gave unaccounted cash to secure supply orders
4. ASG SV Raju said the ED is not crossing limits "at least in this case"

INSIDE • DMK: ED ACTING LIKE BLACKMAILING AGENCY | P5

Cabinet nod to rename R'gara as Bengaluru South

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved renaming of Ramanagara district as 'Bengaluru South'.

According to sources, the cabinet decided to go ahead with renaming the district, defying the Centre. "Ramanagara was originally a Bengaluru district, today in the cabinet it was decided to name it as the Bengaluru South district," DCM DK Shivakumar said.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also authorised CM Siddaramaiah to decide on the implementation of the tunnel road project in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs 17,800 crore. FULLREPORT P4

Govt to give site to Banu

CONGRATULATING author Banu Mushtaq, who won the Booker Prize for her book 'Heart Lamp', and translator Deepa Bhasthi, the Karnataka Cabinet has resolved to allot a 'G' category site by the BDA to the author, if she accepts the government's goodwill gift, informed DCM DK Shivakumar.

Arguments over, SC reserves order on Waqf law

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

AFTER three days of arguments, the Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, reiterating observation on the presumption of constitutionality in favour of the law.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih that waqf managements misused monuments, giving rooms for shops and making unauthorised alterations. This was opposed by senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, saying: "There are other laws to deal with such issues. You can't take my right over the waqf property because of these issues."

Defending the Act, Mehta said the fact that the SC has to hear the pleas seeking interim stay for three days shows there is nothing ex-facie unconstitutional with the law. He submitted that creating a waqf is different from donating to a waqf. That's why there is a requirement for five years practice as Muslims, so that waqf is not used to defraud someone.

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

നവകേരളം പുതുവഴികൾ 10 ഒന്നാംവാർഷികത്തിലേക്ക്

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST, KERALA DRIVES PROGRESS AHEAD.

With comprehensive and inclusive development across all sectors, the Pinarayi Vijayan Government completes four years of governance.

NATIONAL RECOGNITIONS

- No.1 in NITI Aayog's Health Index, consistently
- Top Rank in Sustainable Development Index (2022)
- Ranked Best State in Poverty Reduction (2023)
- Top Performer in Central Education Ministry's Performance Grading Index
- Winner of the Central Health Ministry's Excellence Award for Free Healthcare
- No.1 in National Food Safety Index
- 'Year of Entrepreneurship' recognized as India's Best Practice by American Society of Public Administration
- Top 5 Global Business Incubators – Kerala Startup Mission
- No.1 in Digital Workforce Management (Platinum Award for K-DISC)
- Best in public safety, gender equality and social inclusion – India Today's Behaviour Survey
- Recognised for curbing cybercrimes against women and children
- No.1 in Ease of Doing Business
- No.1 in Social Auditing under MGNREGS

THE GROWTH STREAK CONTINUES

Vizhinjam Port
- Vizhinjam Port has emerged as the commercial gateway of India.

National Highway
- Kerala contributed ₹5,580 crore to the Centre for land acquisition for National Highways, showing unmatched state-level commitment.

Hill Highway
- 166.08 km of the Hill Highway has been completed as part of a transformative 1,166 km project.

IT Sector
- Achieved ₹90,000 crore worth of IT exports, positioning Kerala as a major tech export hub.

Coastal Highway
- Proposed a 625 km Coastal Highway across 9 districts at a cost of ₹6,500 crore, one of India's longest coastal connectivity projects.

K-FON
- Provided free internet to 5,222 BPL families, ensuring digital inclusion.

GAIL Pipeline
- Completed the Kochi-Mangaluru gas pipeline, increasing LNG terminal utilisation from 8% to 30%.

K-SMART
- Digitally processed over 35 lakh files across all local bodies, driving e-governance at scale.

Industries
- Attracted ₹1.96 lakh crore in investments and launched over 3.5 lakh enterprises, creating 7.2 lakh jobs.
- India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG): India's first graphene innovation hub, established through a collaboration between Digital University Kerala, C-MET, and Tata Steel.

Welfare
- Only state providing social welfare pensions to 60 lakh people, distributing ₹72,000 crore.

Education
- Allocated ₹5,000 crore for public school infrastructure, with 139 school buildings renovated.
- Digital University Kerala: India's first digital university, offering advanced programmes in emerging technologies.

Startup Kerala
- Kerala supported the launch of over 6,261 startups, creating more than 65,000 jobs. By 2026, the state aims to reach 15,000 startups, potentially generating over 1 lakh jobs.

Loka Kerala Sabha
- India's first diaspora assembly and a model of excellence for the nation.

Health
- Provided free treatment worth ₹7,000 crore to 30 lakh people, making Kerala No.1 in Healthcare.

Water Metro
- Kochi Water Metro, now operating on 5 routes with 9 terminals, has emerged as a national model for inland water transport.

One of the few states to consistently share its **Annual Progress Report,** Kerala will release this year's Report on May 23 at Thiruvananthapuram.